

***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



***A Welcoming Community, Accepting and
Serving All in the Spirit of Christ***

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

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The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
United Church of Christ
June 3, 2018
Ice Cream Sunday

A Welcoming Community,

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

Prelude

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and then highlight events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to raise significant celebrations to the congregation or introduce yourself or a friend as a guest. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Book.

Our Home, Our Future, Our Time Moment

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we celebrate the fullness of our community as we commit ourselves to living into Christ's way of life.

Pulpit Side: Today, we celebrate our most precious resource: our children. Let us shower them with attention, stories of faith and ice cream!

Lectern Side: Today, we celebrate the many volunteers that dedicate their time and talents to instilling Christian values into our kids.

Pulpit Side: Today, we celebrate the generosity and commitment of so many friends who have donated their money to Our Home, Our Future and Our Time Capital campaign.

Lectern Side: Today, we celebrate the meal that unites us into one body of Christ and challenges us to spread the good news of love.

Leader: Today, our community is strengthened through our children, our many volunteers, our friend's generosity and the Spirit that unites us. Come, let us sing with joy and enthusiasm.

*Opening Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

#31

Time of Confession

Call to Confession

Leader: When we come into the holy presence of God, our own humanity is laid bare. When we stand in the living presence of truth, our own falsehood is revealed. People of God, let us acknowledge who we are and ask our ever-present God to forgive us.

People: **Come, let us confess the ways that we have replaced God with our own logic, morality and divinity.**

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving Parent, model of both frolicking fun and steady responsibility, come and join us as we eat ice cream and celebrate a joyful year of experiencing your word and ways. Help us to be grateful for the smooth, cold, flavored, frozen and sugary treats.....and remember those around the world who never experience such luxuries. Help us to be grateful for the opportunity to hear the stories of faith from the bible and have a guide to move us toward meaningful life.....and remember those who are not allowed to worship you or who do so in danger. Help us to be grateful for the accumulated wealth that will allow your church in Essex Junction to be strong into the future.....and remember those places where poverty destroys hope. Help us to be grateful for the beauty of Vermont and the stability of our country.....and remember places destroyed by war or ravaged by chaos. Help us, O Lord, to remember to be grateful for our lives and ever mindful of our call to your word. In Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Each generation, each culture, each nation, each person lives as both sinner and saint. We follow God and are angelic AND we follow our own desires and fall short of God's glory. Help us to follow your ways of love a little more each day.

People: **We accept your praise and understanding. We promise to try to shape our lives to be kinder to everyone. Alleluia and amen!**

Children's Message

During service, Mallory Charland, our summer staff, is in the Nursery for three and under. There is audio to hear the worship service and the service is streamed to Fellowship Hall. Today is Intergenerational Worship and a celebration of all our volunteers. There are items in the Narthex for busy hands.

God has made us all a rainbow.

Colors dancing 'round and 'round.

In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,

God has made us all a rainbow dancing 'round.

**Jesus loves the little children,
All God's children of the world.
Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through
Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.**

Anthem by Heavenly Harmony

Blessed Be The Name

Hudson

Pastoral Prayer & **Unison Lord's Prayer** ("trespasses")

Leader: God who loves our children and youth....

People:Hear Our Prayer

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Musical Response

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever, amen.**

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem by Heavenly Harmony

Day by Day

Howe

***The Doxology # 778**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Scripture Reading.....I Samuel 3:1-20 [page 192]

Anthem by Joyful Noise

I'm Yours

Mraz, adpt. Joyful Noise

See the song sheet for adapted lyrics. Izzy Owens on violin, Zoe & Makaylah Moos on ukulele

Meditation

12 Years Old

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will celebrate communion by intinction which means that everyone is invited to come forward to receive the bread and juice. Each person will be invited to dip their gluten free piece of bread into the cup and then eat it immediately. People are invited to approach either minister as

individuals, families or groups of friends....then return to your seat. A Deacon will direct the flow of people.

Special note: *ALL the bread and crackers used today is gluten free and all juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.*

Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table!

A Celebration of Ministry: Mark, Josh and Laurie

Mark: Today, we celebrate those who have served our Faith Formation and Youth Programs; volunteers who have shared Jesus' love with our most precious resource.

Josh: We honor their gifts and their willingness to offer them to our community of faith. Each one of them has offered to plant the seeds of faith in the hearts and minds of our children and youth. Their efforts grow in beautiful and surprising ways...some quickly, some slowly.

Laurie: We recognize our Hands On Mission Volunteers, Peer Class Leaders & Helpers, Narthex & Resource Closet Steward, Nursery, 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends, 2nd Floor Greeters, and Junior & High School Youth helpers. Please come forward as you are able to receive the thanks of the congregation.

Trista Acebo,	Gail Babinger,	Jenny Bourn,
Geoff Brown,	Donna Burnett,	Kelley Charland,
Lisa Clark,	Maryann Carlson,	Sue Conti,
Erna Deutsch,	Andrea Goedken,	Kim Hamilton,
Joanne Irwin,	Erica Kamerzel,	Cathy LaPierre,
Shannon McCullen,	Kaki McGearry,	Jessica Moos,
Amanda Palmer,	Linda Lou Parker,	Elaine Raymond,
Jane Schneider,	Andrea Sharp,	Manu Shrestha,
Sandy Tallman,	Hannah Tracy,	Barb Smith,
Meghan Smith,	Barbara Williams	Allison VanSteensburg

Staff – Laurie Chipman, Erica Garvey, Josh Simon, Devon Thomas, Kathryn Locke & Adrienne Hurst

Mark: Creator of every good gift and of our church community, we are grateful for the ministry we hold in common and for these, your ministers to our children and youth whom you have called and equipped with your Spirit for their work.

Josh: By their offerings of gifts, they plant seeds.

Congregation: And your spirit brings growth.

Laurie: They dream the possibilities.

Congregation: And you do more than they can ask or imagine.

Mark: They enrich us with their efforts.

Congregation: And you grow the fruits of faith in us all.

Everyone: For a great Faith Formation Program we celebrate and give thanks. For a tremendous Youth Program we celebrate and give thanks.

Laurie gives her famous home made pot holders so that our volunteer's hands may remain tender.

***Closing Hymn**

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

#327

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction Go Now In Peace**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love**

***Postlude**

***Please stand if you are able.**

*The flowers on the altar are given by Irving Bartlett & family
in loving memory of Carol Bartlett.*

Deacons: Clint Russell & Betsy Weischedel

Please join us for Ice Cream & Fellowship after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall.



TODAY ~ Hannaford Cards & Reloads On Sale!

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Winslow Ladue
Mike Heston
Carol Janwich

Kathy Murray
Marion Schneider
Richard Ansell

Bill Bogardus
Eric & Shannon
Joe Phenix

Please let the office know if you would like a name added to our Prayer Ministry, you can write it on the Friendship Pad, call or email the office or send us a note, welcome@fcej.org

* * * **TODAY** * * *



Signups For Fellowship Time Are on the White Board!

Share your favorite recipe with your friends here at First Church!
Make a batch and if you want to put the recipe out we can make copies! We have some AMAZING cooks here at First Church!

* * * **THIS WEEK** * * *

Yoga @ First !

Monday and Thursday evening classes in the Gym on the second floor!
5:30-6:45. All levels from beginner to experienced are absolutely welcome. You can bring your own mat or borrow one of Jonah's. Classes are free but donations are gratefully accepted for FCCEJ.



Tuesday Morning Sermon Talkback

Join us on Tuesdays from 8:30-10am for coffee, baked goods and a lively discussion of the sermon (and other topics!) that was delivered on Sunday. Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!



Wednesday, 7-8:30pm ~ Sermon Talkback TWO!

There is now a second evening Sermon Talkback group led by either Rev. Mark or Rev. Josh. There is always a pot of decaf ready to go and snacks if we are lucky. Come by yourself or bring a friend and together we will unpack the sermon and explore other topics.

* * * **Children, Youth & Family Announcements** * * *



Faith Formation Sunday School Calendar

Preschool – 8th grade

**Today, June 3rd ~ One service at 9am ~ Intergenerational Worship
Volunteer Recognition ~ Ice Cream Social**

*June 10th – September 2nd ~ Summer Faith Formation
Self- led Activity Bin in Fellowship Hall available most weeks*



Faith Formation Sunday School Offering 2018

Total for 2018 \$514.79

*Your 2018 Offering Choice is **Jamaica School Children***

Scholarship money for school uniforms and books for children.

Remember to bring your offering, \$1 a week can go a long way!

Bring your Faith Formation Sunday School offering each week and use the envelopes in the pews. Use them so your \$ goes to the right place.

Junior Youth @ FCCEJ

5th - 8th graders meet TWICE a month

Next meeting will be in September

High School Youth @ FCCEJ

Saturday, June 9th 7-9pm ~ Come to the church to take a break from studying for final exams to eat snacks and watch a movie and just have a good time. We'll decide on the movie together!

Our Nursery

Our Nursery is one of the first places that our little ones and their parents feel the love of God and learn that the church is a safe place to be. Please be mindful of our Safe Conduct Guidelines and help us keep to our child ratio (2 children to 1 adult), if you see that extra hands will be needed, please stay. We welcome Mallory Charland, one of our college youth, to our Nursery staff. Mallory volunteered a lot in the Nursery during high school.



'Take Out Church' Boxes

These 'pizza' size boxes can travel around with you wherever you go! Items inside will help the whole family stay connected to God and continue to grow in their faith. 'Flat Jesus' is inside! Color and cut it him out. Take him with you everywhere you go. Take some pictures of you and 'Flat Jesus' and post them on our Facebook page! Do you have VB Camp music CD's from previous years, add them to your box. Read or sing a Grace before you have a meal. Talk about how you serve others, read some stories and color some pictures. See Laurie for your box and/or refill materials.



*** * * Opportunities To Volunteer & Donate * * ***



Friday's In June ~ 10am to 12noon ~ VB Camp Set

Join Laurie & make cool pieces for our VB Camp set & decorations!

College students and all who like to be crafty!

Make Logs, lanterns, rocks & recover puppet set & finish raft, plus MORE!

Interested?! Like to help at a different time?! Afternoon? Contact Laurie.

Help us create our Rolling River for our August week of camp!

Dismas House Meal Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers for June 27th. Please contact Ed Steele at 871-5897 edwardmsteele@msn.com if interested or with any questions. There is

also a sign-up in the hallway entering Fellowship Hall.



The Bottle/Can Drive Was Such A Success!

We're going to continue it year round. Bring your bottles/cans to the church.

All proceeds will go towards youth ministry. Thanks!



**Next Food Pantry days are Monday, June 11th, 5:30-7:30pm
and Thursday, June 22nd, 2-6pm**

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity and the Postal Workers Food Drive from this past weekend, the shelves are FULL! Thank you!

We are all set with Egg Cartons - Thank you!



Got Donations? Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

Regular Hours: 10am-3pm Tues & Wed, 4-8pm Thurs

Open Saturday July 7th from 9 am to 1 pm

Spring and Summer Items on Sale-Start your new Wardrobe

Vacation Bible Camp Art Project

During the week of VBC we will be doing an art project using recyclable caps that will connect with our Rolling River Rampage theme. **We are really looking for milk cap sizes.** Please bring them to church by Sunday, August 6th and we will put them to use. Watch for the colored VB Camp bin in Fellowship Hall.



Craft Fest Volunteer Opening

We are looking for 2-3 people to organize the Silent Auction. Phyllis Willey will train people in how it has been done in the past and she will be there to help the day of Craft Fest. You can contact her at willeykrewe@gmail.com.



The silent auction raises between \$3,800 and \$4,200 every year. If anyone has any further questions and would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact Linda Bogardus at lbogardus@myfairpoint.net or at 872-8972 evenings.

2018-19 Faith Formation Volunteers

Starting in the Fall

If these statements hold true for YOU, please connect with Laurie for more information...we need YOU!

- I have been attending and have been a part of FCCEJ for at least 6 months
- I am willing to help our children and youth at church to continue to grow in their faith
- I know it's OK to not have all the answers, but a willingness to learn and help grow in the faith
- I feel that the FCCEJ Faith Formation programs are a vital part of this church and I am willing to support it with my time and talents

Many ways to support First Church kids and youth: Nursery Volunteers ~ 1st Sunday Spiritual Friends ~ Peer Class Leaders & Helpers ~ Hands-On Mission Sunday Helpers

* * * **SAVE THE DATES** * * *

July 29 – August 3 ~ Our VT OM Camp Week at Rock Point

HORTON CENTER GOES TO VT - MIDDLEL

Entering Grades 5-8 in the Fall

\$420 www.hortoncenter.org



Nurse and Lifeguard needed for Camp

The VT Outdoor Ministry Team is looking for a NURSE (RN) & a certified LIFEGUARD for our week at Rock Point! Yes, you will be paid! Contact Laurie for more information.

Think of it... no cooking or laundry for a week, just great fun in God's outdoors!



August 6th -10th ~ Vacation Bible Camp

2018 Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

Mon – Fri 9am to 11:45am ; A full week of energy & excitement seeing God's

Love in Action! Join and be a part of this fun week!

Calling all KIDS ~~ Registration is now OPEN!

Groups: You & Me (toddler & parent/grandparent), Preschool (three & fours - potty trained) & up through those entering 5th grade in the fall.

Now Recruiting Station Leader: Bible Drama ~ Games

Helpers: Youth (entering sixth grade & up), College Students/ Adults of all ages! See Laurie for more information and to sign up!

See VB Camp Wish List on Table in Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK: June 3rd -9th

- SUNDAY:** **9:00am One Worship Service / Sanctuary**
10:15am Ice Cream Sunday & Capital Campaign Wrap-up Celebration
10:30 - 11:30 pm Music Committee / Choir Loft
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 8:00 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting / Marvin Lounge
- MONDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 4:00pm Food Pantry Stocking / Fellowship Hall & Gym
5:30 - 6:30 pm Group Victory / Youth Lounge
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
6:30 - 9:30 pm Joe's Big Band / Fellowship Hall
- TUESDAY:** **8:30 - 10:00 am Sermon Talk Back / Marvin Lounge**
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:00 - 7:00 pm Finance Committee / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 9:00 pm Church Council / Marvin Lounge
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 - 11:00 am Tai Chi / Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - 3:00pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
1:30 - 3:30 pm Bob Booth Funeral Service / Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 7:00 pm Finally @ First / Fellowship Hall
5:30 - 7:00 pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee / Marvin Lounge
6:00 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts PLC / Youth Lounge
7:00 - 8:00 pm Sermon Talk Back II / Marvin Lounge
7:00 - 8:30 pm Boy Scouts / Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY:** 8:30 - 11:30 am Essex Art League / Fellowship Hall
12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
12:00 - 2:00 pm JOY / Marvin Lounge
4:00 - 8:00 pm Heavenly Cents Thrift Store Open
4:30 - 7:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting-Judy McC / Marvin Lounge
5:30 - 6:45 pm Yoga with Jonah / Gym
6:00 - 8:00 pm Pack 630 Meeting / Fellowship Hall
6:15 - 7:00 pm Heavenly Harmony / Sanctuary
7:00 - 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir / Sanctuary
- FRIDAY:** 12:00 noon Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall
6:30 - 10:30 pm Scrapbooking Journey / Marvin Lounge
7:30 - 10:30 pm Grange / Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY:** 9:00am - 12:00 pm Nepali Community Worship & Meal / Sanctuary & FH
1:00 - 2:00 pm Brown Bag / Fellowship Hall

Our Home, Our Future, Our Time – NEWS & NOTES

Thank you!

We offer our thanks to everyone who has participated in the
Our Home, Our Future, Our Time
Capital Campaign!

Special thanks to our incredible Steering Committee
and the countless volunteers who have given their
time and talent to support the Campaign in so many ways...

Visitors, thank-you writers, mailing stuffers, event planners,
cupcake bakers, online & print communicators...we are very
grateful for all you have done to make this Campaign possible!

As of Wednesday, May 30 we have raised
97% of our base goal
and pledges continue to come in.

If you haven't yet contributed, your gift can put us
over the top & help make our stretch goal a reality!

*For the latest numbers on the campaign progress
go to the Capital Campaign tab on our church website at www.fccej.org*